

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2011

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson:

We urge you to support a funding level of **\$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY 12) Interior Appropriations bill** to support the NEA's core mission to bring the arts to every American. The NEA reached its peak funding at \$176 million in 1992, and has never fully recovered from a 40 percent budget cut in FY 1996.

Thanks to your leadership, the NEA received \$170 million in funding in the FY11 subcommittee markup, though the NEA has been funded at the FY10 level of \$167.5 million for most of FY11. Continuing that level of funding for FY12 will help the NEA maintain its extremely successful programs, including *The Big Read*, *Art Works*, *Challenge America Fast Track Grants*, *The Mayor's Institute on City Design 25th Anniversary Initiative*, *Blue Star Museums* and *Federal/State Partnerships*, which reach every congressional district in the country. In FY 10, the NEA awarded over \$110 million in appropriated funds through **nearly 2,400 grants reaching all 435 congressional districts**. Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and magnifying effect across the entire nation.

The NEA contributes to the development and economic growth of communities nationwide. Each year, the arts industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity, and provides 5.7 million full-time jobs. At the same time, this industry returns \$12.6 billion to the federal government in income taxes. The National Governor's Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognize the enormous value of the arts in our communities and regional economies. Arts and culture-related industries provide direct economic benefits to states and communities: they create jobs, attract investments, generate tax revenues, and stimulate local economies through tourism and consumer purchases. These businesses employ 2.99 million people, representing 4.14 percent of all businesses and 2.17 percent of all employees, respectively. America's arts and entertainment are also leading exports, with estimates of more than \$30 billion annually in overseas sales. From the work of nonprofit arts agencies to the impact of cultural tourism, the creative sector is important to state economies all across the country.

The NEA supports life-long learning in the arts. The NEA's education programs have helped to sustain support in local communities for arts education, which has been proven to help close the education achievement gap and also benefit children and adults in many important ways throughout their lives. Students with an education rich in the arts have better grade point averages in core academic subjects, score better on standardized tests, and have lower drop-out rates than students without arts education.

We strongly urge you to maintain NEA funding at \$167.5 million in the FY 12 Interior Appropriations bill. By approving FY10's enacted level of funding, you will maintain the NEA's ability to ensure that all

Americans have the opportunity to benefit from the arts. We appreciate your attention to this request, and hope we can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



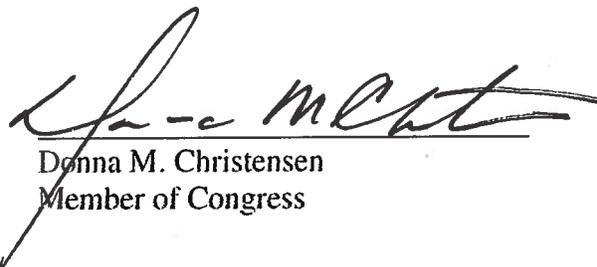
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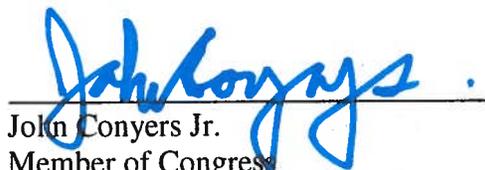
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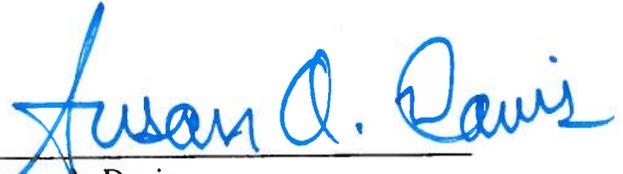
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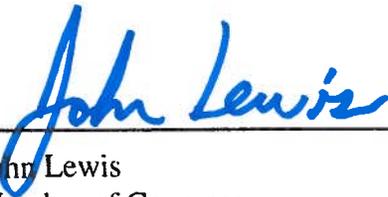
Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress



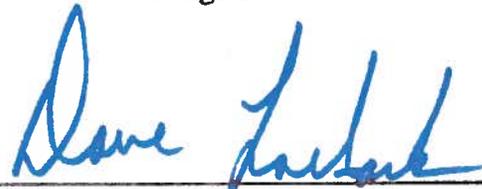
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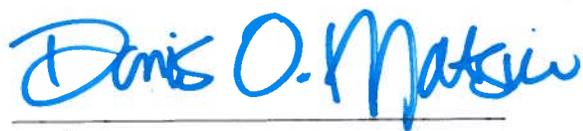
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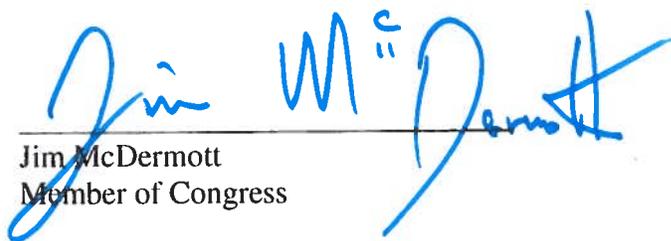
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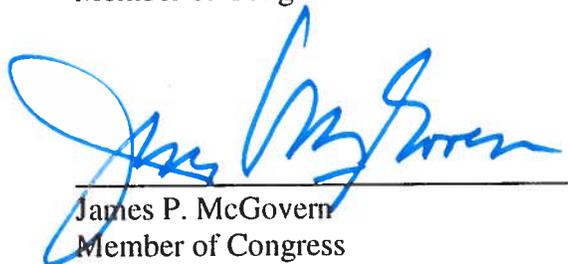
Carolyn B. Maloney
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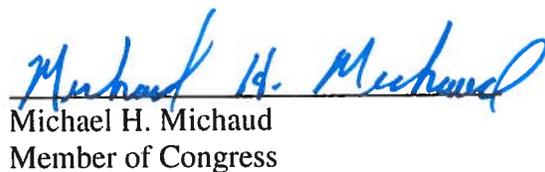
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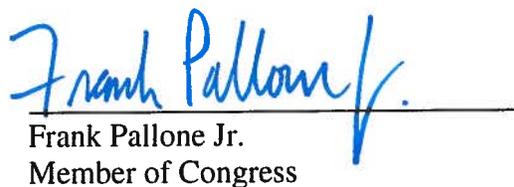
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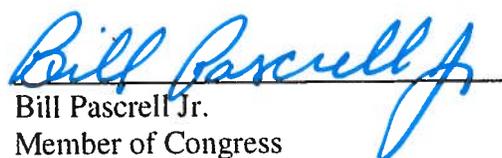
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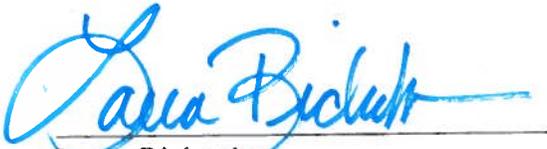
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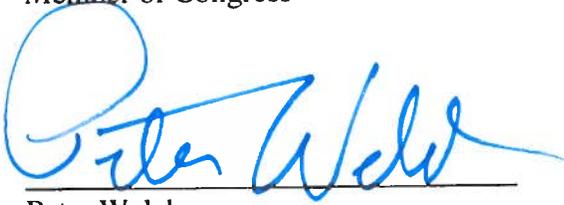
Steven R. Rothman
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Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress



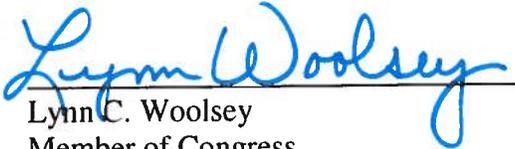
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



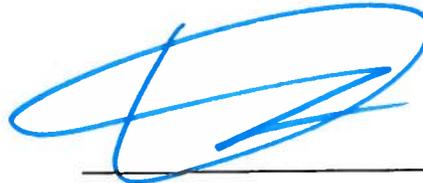
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Henry A. Waxman
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Janice D. Schakowsky
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